

PREFACE.

It may not be out of place to intimate that the following pages have been committed to the Press, in obedience to the wishes of the Society before which the eulogium of St. Vincent de Paul was pronounced. To give an adequate idea of the life and labours of so good and great a man, within the necessarily narrow limits of a Lecture, is more than can be well aspired to. The mere report of a discourse which the zeal of the charitable Brotherhood caused to be pronounced, may, nevertheless, convey to the enquiring mind, some idea of the extraordinary personal sanctity—and the all but incredible works of St. Vincent, which left their impress on his own age, and bequeathed to future generations, together with valuable and lasting institutions, the most hallowed and endearing memories.